

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 6, 8-15, 18, 20-27, 29 and 31-34 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, 13-15, 18, 20, 23-26, 29, 31 and 34 are amended and claims 4, 5, 7, 16, 17, 19, 28 and 30 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the November 23, 2004 personal interview. The subject matter of the discussions held are incorporated into the following remarks and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

**I.      The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-7, 9, 10, 12-19, 21, 22, 24-30, 32 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over USP 5,465,163 to Yoshihara and claims 8, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yoshihara in view of USP 6,038,349 to Cullen. With respect to claims 4, 5, 7, 16, 17, 19, 28 and 30, these rejections are moot. With respect to the remaining claims these rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied references disclose deleting the mark from the continuous image in the memory by replacing the mark with adjacent image content prior to printing the continuous image, as recited in original claims 7, 19 and 30 and now recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24. Yoshihara merely discloses that after a completion of the connection of images processing of erasing color marks is performed and a storing operation in the A3 memory is performed. See, e.g., col. 8, lines 53-55. Cullen does not provide the deficiencies of Yoshihara.

**II.     Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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